

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A communication method comprising:
 - establishing an instant messaging (IM) chat session between a first sender and a recipient, the IM chat session being established by the first sender sending a first IM message to an IM address of the recipient;
 - receiving a second IM message from a second sender to the recipient;
 - in response to receiving the second IM message from the second sender to the recipient, sending a query to the second sender, the query including an option to join the IM chat session;
 - in response to receiving a response to the query indicating a desire by the second sender to join the IM chat session, sending a query to the recipient to establish an IM chat room with the second sender; and
 - in response to receiving an indication from the recipient to establish an IM chat room with the second sender, establishing the IM chat room between the recipient, the first sender, and the second sender.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a reply from the second sender, the reply being one selected from the group consisting of:
 - an acceptance of the option to join the IM chat session; and
 - a rejection of the option to join the IM chat session; and
 - wherein establishing the IM chat room is responsive to the reply being the acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a reply from the recipient, the reply being one selected from the
group consisting of:

granting permission to join the IM chat session; and

denying permission to join the IM chat session; and

wherein establishing the IM chat room is responsive to the reply being the
granting of permission to join the IM chat session.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
issuing a request for permission to join the IM chat session, the request
for permission being issued to the first sender;

receiving a reply from the first sender, the reply being one selected from
the group consisting of:

granting permission to join the IM chat session; and

denying permission to join the IM chat session; and

wherein establishing the IM chat room is responsive to the reply being the
granting of permission to join the IM chat session.

5. (Previously presented) A communication method comprising:
receiving an instant messaging (IM) message from a latter sender
directed to an instant messaging (IM) address of a recipient;

determining whether an IM chat session is established between the
recipient and an earlier sender;

in response to determining that an IM chat session is established
between the recipient and the earlier sender, sending a query to the latter
sender, the query including an option to join the IM chat session;

in response to receiving an indication by the latter sender to join the IM
chat session, sending a query to the recipient to establish an IM chat room with
the latter sender; and

in response to receiving a positive response from the recipient to the query to establish an IM chat room with the latter sender, establishing the IM chat room between the recipient, the earlier sender, and the latter sender.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein establishing an IM chat room comprises:

receiving a reply from the latter sender, the reply being one selected from the group consisting of:

- an acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session; and
- a rejection of the invitation to join the IM chat session; and
- establishing the IM chat room in response to the reply being the acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein establishing an IM chat room comprises:

receiving a reply from the recipient. the reply being one selected from the group consisting of:

- granting permission to join the IM chat session; and
- denying permission to join the IM chat session; and
- establishing the IM chat room in response to the reply being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein establishing an IM chat room comprises:

issuing a request for permission to join the IM chat session, the request for permission being issued to the earlier sender;

receiving a reply from the earlier sender, the reply being one selected from the group consisting of:

- granting permission to join the IM chat session; and

denying permission to join the IM chat session; and
establishing the IM chat room in response to the reply being the granting
of permission to join the IM chat session.

9. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising:

a processor means for establishing an instant messaging (IM) chat
session between a first sender and a recipient, the IM chat session being
established by the first sender sending a first IM message to an IM address of
the recipient;

means for receiving a second IM message from a second sender to the
recipient;

means for sending, in response to receiving the second IM message
from the second sender to the recipient, a query to the second sender, the
query including an option to join the IM chat session;

means for sending, in response to receiving an indication by the second
sender to join the IM chat session, a query to the recipient to establish an IM
chat room with the second sender; and

means for establishing the IM chat room between the recipient, the first
sender, and the second sender.

10. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising:

a processor ~~an establishing component~~ configured to establish an instant
messaging (IM) chat session between a first sender and a recipient, the IM chat
session being established by the first sender sending a first IM message to an
IM address of the recipient;

a receiving component configured to receive a second IM message from
a second sender to the recipient;

a first sending component configured to, in response to receiving the second IM message at the receiving component, send a query to the second sender, the query including an option to join the IM chat session;

a second sending component configured to, in response to receiving an indication by the second sender to join the IM chat session, send a query to the recipient to establish an IM chat room with the second sender; and

a chat room component configured to establish an IM chat room between the recipient, the first sender, and the second sender.

11. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising:

a receiving component configured to receive an instant messaging (IM) message from a latter sender directed to an IM address of a recipient;

a processor determining component configured to determine whether an IM chat session is established between the recipient and an earlier sender;

a first sending component configured to, in response to receiving the IM message from the latter sender at the receiving component, send a query to the latter sender, the query including an option to join the IM chat session;

a second sending component configured to, in response to receiving an indication by the latter sender to join the IM chat session, send a query to the recipient to establish an IM chat room with the latter sender; and

an establishing component configured to establish the IM chat room between the recipient, the earlier sender, and the latter sender in response to receiving a positive response to the query to establish an IM chat room with the latter sender.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to establish an instant messaging (IM) chat session between a first sender and a recipient, the IM chat session being established by the first sender sending a first IM message to an IM address of the recipient:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a second IM message from a second sender to the recipient;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to, in response to receiving the second IM message at the receiving component, send a query to the second sender, the query including an option to join the IM chat session;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to, in response to receiving an indication by the second sender to join the IM chat session, send a query to the recipient to establish an IM chat room with the second sender; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to establish an IM chat room between the recipient, the first sender, and the second sender.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a reply from the second sender, the reply from the second sender being one selected from the group consisting of:

an acceptance of the option to join the IM chat session; and
a rejection of the option to join the IM chat session.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a reply from the recipient, the reply from the recipient being one selected from the group consisting of:

granting permission to join the IM chat session; and
denying permission to join the IM chat session.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to issue a request for permission to join the IM chat session, the request for permission being issued to the first sender; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a reply from the first sender, the reply from the first sender being one selected from the group consisting of:

granting permission to join the IM chat session; and
denying permission to join the IM chat session.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to establish the IM chat room in response to:

the reply from the second sender being the acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session;

the reply from the recipient being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session; and

the reply from the first sender being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to establish the IM chat room in response to at least one of:

the reply from the second sender being the acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session;

the reply from the recipient being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session; and

the reply from the first sender being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session.

19. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive an instant messaging (IM) message from a latter sender directed to an IM address of a recipient;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine whether an IM chat session is established between the recipient and an earlier sender;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to, in response to receiving the IM message at the receiving component, send a query to the latter sender, the query including an option to join the IM chat session;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to, in response to receiving an indication by the latter sender to join the IM chat session, send a query to the recipient to establish an IM chat room with the latter sender; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to establish an IM chat room between the recipient, the earlier sender, and the

latter sender in response to receiving a positive response to the query to establish an IM chat room with the latter sender.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a reply from the latter sender, the reply being one selected from the group consisting of:

an acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session; and
a rejection of the invitation to join the IM chat session.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a reply from the recipient, the reply being one selected from the group consisting of:

granting permission to join the IM chat session; and
denying permission to join the IM chat session.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to issue a request for permission to join the IM chat session, the request for permission being issued to the earlier sender; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a reply from the earlier sender, the reply being one selected from the group consisting of:

granting permission to join the IM chat session; and
denying permission to join the IM chat session.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the computer-readable code adapted to instruct the programmable device to establish the IM chat room comprises:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to establish the IM chat room in response to:

the reply from the latter sender being the acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session;

the reply from the recipient being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session; and

the reply from the earlier sender being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the computer-readable code adapted to instruct the programmable device to establish the IM chat room comprises:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to establish the IM chat room in response to at least one of:

the reply from the latter sender being the acceptance of the invitation to join the IM chat session;

the reply from the recipient being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session; and

the reply from the earlier sender being the granting of permission to join the IM chat session.

25. (Previously presented) The communication method of claim 1, wherein the first IM message is sent from an IM address of the first sender.